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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.35

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraphs 13, 14, 15 and 20 of draft resolution A/49/L.35 the General Assembly would:

(a) Note with satisfaction the efforts of the Secretary-General, the agencies of the United Nations system and the international community as a whole to coordinate their support for the peace process and, in particular, for the implementation of the peace agreements, and encourage them to continue their assistance in favour of peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development in Guatemala;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to continue his support for the Guatemalan peace process, through his Representative, and his assistance in implementing the agreements;

(c) Call upon the Government of El Salvador and all the political forces involved in the peace process to make all possible efforts to fulfil their vital outstanding commitments in accordance with the "Timetable for the implementation of the most important outstanding commitments" and to implement all aspects of

the agreements fully, and request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies, the Member States and the Government of El Salvador, to devise procedures for providing El Salvador, in the context of the peace agreements, with the necessary cooperation and assistance in the period after the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, in order to safeguard peace and the strengthening and consolidation of national reconciliation, democracy and sustainable development;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to give the Central American countries every possible assistance for the consolidation of peace and the strategy of sustainable development in the region.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan and the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

2. Those requests relate to subprogramme 1 (Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking) of programme 1 (Good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection and analysis of information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. While resources are provided in the programme budget for activities in support of the Secretary-General's functions in the area of international peace and security, related activities are often not programmed in the programme budget since their very nature often precludes such an approach. This is true of the Secretary-General's activities in promoting a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/49/L.35, the Secretary-General would:

(a) Continue to coordinate with the organizations of the United Nations system and the international community his support for the peace process, in particular for the implementation of peace, and his assistance in favour of peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development in Guatemala;

(b) Continue his support for the Guatemalan peace process, through his Representative, and his assistance in implementing the agreements;

(c) Devise procedures, in consultation with the specialized agencies, the Member States and the Government of El Salvador, for providing El Salvador, in the context of the peace agreements, with the necessary cooperation and assistance in the period after the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, in order to safeguard peace and to strengthen and to consolidate national reconciliation, democracy and sustainable development;

(d) Give the Central American countries every possible assistance for the consolidation of peace and the strategy of sustainable development in the region.

D. Additional requirements for 1994-1995

4. It will be recalled that, at its forty-sixth session and forty-seventh session, the General Assembly authorized two temporary posts (one P-5 and one General Service) for 1992 in the context of the adoption of resolutions 46/109 A of 17 December 1991 and 47/118 of 18 December 1992, respectively. Owing to the expanded support called for in its resolution 48/161 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly, in adopting resolution 48/161, authorized for 1994 the continuation of the two temporary posts and the establishment of one additional post at the P-4 level to assist in the Central American peace process.

5. As reflected in the latest reports of the Secretary-General on this item (A/48/985 and A/49/489 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General remains closely involved in the peace process in Central America. His good offices continue to play a key role in the Central American peace process (in El Salvador and Guatemala); in supporting the initiative of Nicaragua in the reactivation of the economic and social development in the country; and in the continued backstopping of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador. In addition, under draft resolution A/49/L.45, if adopted, a broad scope of activities to be undertaken by the Secretary-General would be requested, including the provision of political guidance and substantive support for the implementation of agreements already reached in Guatemala. It is also anticipated that the United Nations, in due course, would be called upon to verify further agreements to be concluded as foreseen in the Framework Agreement of 10 January 1994.

6. It is anticipated that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, activities outlined in paragraph 3 above would require the continuation of the three temporary posts (one P-5, one P-4 and one General Service (Other level) to assist in all aspects of the Secretary-General's involvement in the Central American peace process.

7. One of the officers would continue to assist the Secretary-General or his Special Representative in the peace processes in El Salvador and in Guatemala, and the second officer would continue to assist the Secretary-General in his activities relating to support for the current initiative undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua for the consolidation of peace in the region, and backstop all these efforts from Headquarters. It should also be noted that travel to the Central American region is required in the context of the Secretary-General's role in the peace process there.

8. On a full-cost basis, the requirements estimated at $330,300 are broken down as follows:

	United States dollars
(a) Staff	
Salary and common staff costs of one P-5, one P-4 and one General Service (Other level) for 12 work-months in 1995	285 300
(b) Travel	45 000
Total	330 300

E. Potential for absorption

9. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 under section 4 (Peace-keeping operations and special missions) to cover the estimated additional requirements of $330,300 related to the provision of additional staff required to support the Secretary-General's continuing efforts in this area. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the related requirements could be absorbed from within the provision under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

F. Indication of additional requirements

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/49/L.45, it is estimated that additional resources of $330,300 would be required for 1995 under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

G. Contingency fund

11. In paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, which sets out the budget process, it is provided, inter alia, that:

> "the revised estimates arising from the impact of extraordinary expenses, including those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, as well as fluctuations in rates of exchange and inflation, shall not be covered by the contingency fund and shall continue to be treated in accordance with established procedures and under the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules".

12. The Secretary-General is of the view that the activities outlined above are related to the maintenance of peace and security and thus should be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213.

H. Action required of the General Assembly

13. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/49/L.45, an additional appropriation of $330,300 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $73,300 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).